MEMORANDUM

To:

Mayor and Commissioners

From:

Jimmy Morales

City Manager

Subject:

Retirement of Police Chief Raymond Martinez

Date:

March 6, 2014

Today, Police Chief Raymond Martinez has announced his intention to retire from the Miami Beach Police Department, effective April 4, 2014.

First and foremost, the entire Miami Beach community is indebted to Chief Martinez for his last 12 ½ years working to protect the residents and visitors to our community, including the last two years as the Chief of the Department. Chief Martinez has dedicated his professional life to law enforcement in South Florida, and we are all better off because of it. I know he will be sorely missed by this community. Fortunately, we do have some time to make sure that we adequately thank the Chief for his years of service before he embarks on the next chapter in his life.

I have asked Chief Martinez, and he has agreed, to stay on beyond April 4, if necessary, to make sure that we have a reasonable time frame in which to identify, hire and transition to a new Police Chief. I want to personally thank him for his agreement to do so since such a transition is never easy and his efforts will hopefully minimize any disruption. I am also confident that the men and women of the Miami Beach Police Department will participate cooperatively in such transition.

I now turn to the task of finding and hiring a new Police Chief, arguably the most important role in any government. As you know, my approach to identifying and hiring top professionals this past year has not been to simply list a position and hope that qualified individuals apply. Rather, I have taken a proactive approach and sought out individuals that I thought were the right fit for our needs. I intend to take the same approach in this instance. I have, for example, asked the Police Executive Research Forum, which is currently conducting the audit of our Police Department, to help me identify regional and national candidates. I am also reaching out to contacts I have throughout the state to identify potential candidates. Pursuant to the City Charter, it is my intention to timely bring a candidate for Police Chief for your approval in the next few months.

Again, I want to thank Chief Martinez for his service. He epitomizes the phrase "an officer and a gentleman" and I have personally enjoyed working with him during this past year. I am confident that he will find success in his next adventure.

Cc:

City Attorney

City Clerk